

**ANG****Bayan**

Pahayagan ng Partido Komunista ng Pilipinas
Pinapatnubayan ng Marxismo-Leninismo-Maoismo

English edition
Vol. XXXVII No. 6
March 21, 2006
www.philippinerevolution.org

Editorial

Intensify the armed struggle!

The Party urgently calls on all Red commanders and fighters of the NPA and all cadres and members of the CPP to give their all to intensify the armed struggle. This is the NPA's fitting response to the broad clamor to eradicate the fascist ogre in Malacañang, strengthen the legal and revolutionary mass movements and advance people's war to the next sub-stage of the strategic defensive.

In accordance with directives issued by its Central Committee, the CPP calls on all Red commanders and fighters of the NPA to strengthen their resolve and maintain the growing momentum of their tactical offensives.

We must continue the series of tactical offensives started in September 2005 that are so far the most widespread, most intensive and most sustained since 1992. Let us launch more numerous and more frequent tactical offensives and seize more weapons. Let us further improve our Red fighters' capabilities, enhance their militancy and strengthen the people's fighting will.

The momentum of the NPA's tactical offensives offers clear proof that objective and subjective



conditions are ripe for the intensification of guerrilla warfare. Current conditions are even more favorable today compared to those of the early 1980s when there was a vigorous surge in the armed struggle.

Malacañang's resident fascist ogre Gloria Arroyo is extremely vicious. But her sharp and bloodied fangs fail to obscure a weak and ailing regime. There is a raging socio-economic crisis of unprecedented depth—hunger is widespread and poverty severe. The public coffers are empty, agricul-

ture and industry are in shambles and unemployment is mounting.

Arroyo's leading instruments for armed suppression are wracked by internal strife. The counterrevolutionary war Bantay Laya launched in 2001 has failed to suppress the armed struggle. The NPA's intensifying tactical offensives nationwide have revealed the weaknesses of the AFP-PNP—demoralization among junior officers and soldiers is widespread and their deployment overextended, and the military and police extremely isolated.

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The ogre inflicts terror and wreaks havoc, using its ferocity to the fullest to bear upon unarmed citizens and anti-Arroyo forces. But the Arroyo regime's viciousness manifests how it desperately clings to power in the face of the popular clamor for its ouster. It is Arroyo who is terrified by a united people now rising up and waging resistance.

The NPA must deal heavy blows on the fascist US-Arroyo regime and its villainous campaign of state terrorism. The regime and its armed minions must be punished to express the populace's intense anger and emphasize that the people will never allow the unmitigated violation of their rights.

The intensification of armed struggle inspires the people to likewise strengthen unarmed, legal and illegal struggles. Mass organizations and organs of political power moreover grow in number and gain strength and mass struggles are carried out at broader and higher levels.

Let us resolutely implement our tasks to further advance the revolutionary armed struggle. In accordance with orders from the

We must never be complacent. We must never be hesitant in advancing. We must never fear sacrifice and hardship. We must be diligent and daring even as we remain judicious and thorough in foiling enemy attacks and advancing people's war to a new and higher level.

Central Committee, the NPA must prioritize annihilative actions that could be won and ensure the seizure of more weapons and other war materiel.

We give value and emphasis to military actions with considerable political impact, among them punitive actions against the worst fascist criminals, plunderers and extortionists, death squads and intelligence and special units of the AFP-PNP involved in the abduction, torture and summary execution of activists and ordinary citizens. Punitive operations will also be launched against the Arroyo regime's most rabid apologists and cronies.

Furthermore, we must continue to expand and invigorate propaganda and organizing work within the AFP-PNP-CAFGU. Even as we strive to form alliances with positive and progressive forces, let us

also independently organize clandestine groups and networks among the ranks of soldiers and policemen. We must blunt the anti-communist and "anti-terrorist" scare tactics used by the AFP-PNP to deceive their personnel into defending the rotten regime and ruling system.

Leading committees of the Party nationwide must give due attention to military issues and tasks. The people's war must be intensified throughout the country's entire length and breadth, with the whole NPA organization contributing to the effort. It is the task of leading committees to formulate plans and ensure the availability of forces and materiel.

We must enhance our ability to conduct intelligence work and zero in on our targets. We must be creative in pinpointing targets, planning operations and defining tactics to ensure victorious ambushes and raids. We must encourage initiative among Red fighters and mobilize them at the basic level. We must mobilize units of the people's militia and the masses of the peasantry for various duties in the armed struggle.

We must continually combat conservatism and the tendency to remain passive in the face of enemy attack. We must never be complacent. We must never be hesitant in advancing. We must never fear sacrifice and hardship. We must be diligent and daring even as we remain judicious and thorough in foiling enemy attacks and advancing people's war to a new and higher level. **AB**



Vol. XXXVII No. 6 March 21, 2006

Ang Bayan is published in Pilipino, Bisaya, Iloko, Hiligaynon, Waray and English editions.

It is available for downloading at the Philippine Revolution Web Central located at:

www.philippinerevolution.org

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Ang Bayan is published fortnightly by the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines

The fascist ogre

The Arroyo regime persists in its fascist attacks. Its withdrawal of Presidential Proclamation 1017 is patently fraudulent and worthless. The regime's fascist ferocity has in fact worsened. It has repeatedly threatened to revive PP 1017 should its rule be threatened. It has revived or distorted various executive orders, directives and laws (such as the Marcos dictatorship's BP 880) to justify its actions. Laws that curtail the regime from doing as it wishes are either ignored or circumvented.

The regime has used various means to stay in power. Aside from the fascist propaganda spewed by Malacañang and the AFP, the regime continues to give out bribes to win over more allies in Congress, local government units, the judiciary and the armed forces, and is rushing the approval of charter change. In the end, the desperate regime has had to rely on fascist suppression as its main means of staying in power. The regime's desperate reliance on the fascist and mercenary military and police was confirmed by AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison when he said, "The military can make or break the (regime)." According to Kison, the country remains intact despite the unrest because the military supports Arroyo. Kison was immediately relieved the next day due to the numerous criticisms against the regime caused by his pronouncements.

Arroyo's shaky control of the armed forces relies upon a few leading generals and loyalist officers. Majority of the armed forces is restive and discontent is prevalent among most young officers and men of the military and police. The regime's ferocity is that of a cornered beast.

Arroyo has even grown more desperate in the face of mounting people's protests and her increasing isolation after she declared a "state of national emergency" and imposed the repressive PP 1017 and General Orders No.5 and No. 6. Pulse Asia's latest survey this March showed that three out of five Filipinos have lost their trust in Arroyo, who is the least trusted and the most hated among all Philippine presidents. More than 65% of the population wants her out of power. The regime's fascist directives and actions have only exacerbated the people's anger.

The regime formed the Inter-agency Legal Action Group (IALAG) in January to supervise the filing of cases and the prosecution of its political enemies. Arroyo works closely with the fascist institution Center for Strategic Studies to conduct an all-out anticommunist

campaign and condi-

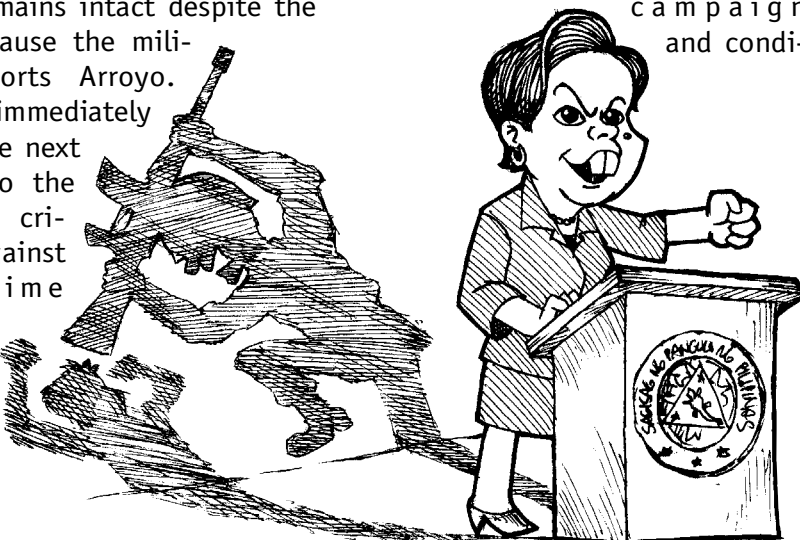
tion the people's minds to accept her rule. Arroyo's chief operator in this campaign is Fr. Romeo Intengan, the country's foremost clerico-fascist, who has been doing the rounds of the Philippine clergy to popularize the regime's fascist policies. Intengan is being assisted by National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales, another clerico-fascist.

The regime has issued a wanted list of personalities it has accused of rebellion. The issuance of the list, which did not consist of the names of convicted criminals but of the regime's political enemies, is in violation of the accused's basic civil rights and completely disregards the justice system.

The list includes persons granted immunity under the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) signed in 1995 by the National Democratic Front and the Philippine government. This is treachery of the highest order and tramples on all previous agreements signed by both parties. Arroyo's move has put an end to the peace talks. The NDF has since declared the futility of holding peace negotiations with the Arroyo regime.

Malacañang declared that it would suppress the new impeachment case to be filed by the opposition before Congress as it did the attempted *coup d'etat*—that is, by pursuing, arresting and suppressing the leaders of the impeachment effort.

The regime seeks to derail the anti-Arroyo movement by prohibiting the people's protest actions. Rep. Risa Baraquel was arrested in a women's rally on March 8. Corazon "Dinky" Soliman and Vicente Romano, both leaders of the Black and White Movement, were arrested for "illegal assembly" while promenading along the Baywalk



Continued on "The fascist..." on page 4

Ka Bel and the Batasan 5

Progressive forces and the legal opposition, especially mass leaders and congressional representatives from progressive partylist organizations are being subjected to relentless harassment.

Anakpawis partylist representative Crispin "Ka Bel" Beltran languishes in jail despite an order from the Quezon City Regional Trial Court for his release March 13. The court ruled that the Department of Justice (DOJ) had no probable cause for charging Beltran with sedition and that as a congressman, he was covered by parliamentary immunity. The court censured the PNP CIDG for arresting Beltran without warrant on February 25. The CIDG invoked an rebellion case against Beltran to justify his arrest.

The PNP, however, refuses to release Ka Bel on the pretext of a new accusation that he was an accomplice in the alleged coup planned by rebellious military forces. A case of illegal arrest and arbitrary detention has thus been filed against Arroyo by the Council for the Defense of Liberties (CODAL) before the UN Human Rights Committee and the Working Group for Arbitrary Detention in Geneva, Switzerland.

The DOJ has meanwhile been denounced for presenting an alleged witness against congressional representatives of progressive partylist organizations. Jaime Beltran Fuentes, who introduced himself as the security chief of Bayan Muna Executive Director Vicente Ladlad, appeared during the preliminary investigation held at the congressional building last March 13. But no one among the accused or the members of the organizations they represent knew Fuentes. Former Social Welfare Secretary Dinky Soliman of the Black and White Movement was also accused by Fuentes as an accomplice in the coup plot. Fuentes likewise accused Kodao, a legitimate media organization, of being a front of the CPP.

Another man, a Ruel Escala, claimed to have witnessed a meeting between the six party list representatives and 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan in Batangas on February 20. Escala's claims were later exposed as blatant lies because

Congress records showed that all six representatives were attending a bicameral committee meeting on that date.

It has been four weeks since the Batasan 5 have been confined to the premises of Congress and Ka Bel has been imprisoned in Camp Crame. Support for the congressional representatives has grown even as their period of detention has lengthened. The Senate expressed readiness to provide sanctuary for the five representatives after the House leadership implied that Congressional protection for them may be withdrawn. Former presidential candidate Bro. Eddie Villanueva has likewise visited Ka Bel recently and called for the release of the imprisoned congressman.

Numerous mass actions demanding the release of the six representatives have been launched in many countries. Messages of support continue to pour in from international groups, foreign political parties and officials. New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark was among those who expressed concern over reports of rampant violations of human rights in the Philippines, questions regarding the regime's declaration of a state of national emergency as well as other repressive laws and the continued detention of the six partylist representatives.

The Norwegian government has expressed concern over what it termed as questionable arrests and the suppression of



Continued on "Ka Bel..." on page 5

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beside Manila Bay on March 17.

The regime warned the people against staging mass actions on March 31 and May 1 allegedly because the next coup attempts are scheduled on

these dates. The regime fears that the traditional big mobilizations to commemorate Labor Day would lead to an uprising.

As an additional deterrent, a large detention center is being built in Tanay, Rizal purposely for opponents of the Arroyo regime.

AB

press freedom. The Norwegian government acts as third party facilitator in the peace talks between the GRP and the NDFP. Six members of parliament from Belgium and The Netherlands have asked their governments to investigate widespread cases of human rights violations by the Arroyo regime. The Swiss Labour Party also sent a letter of concern on the same matter to the Arroyo government on March 7.

International support for Ka Bel and the Batasan 5 grows stronger. Among those who have expressed support are US Presbyterian Church and World

Alliance of Reformed Churches leader, the Rev. Dr. Clifton Kirkpatrick. Bayan Muna has also solicited 302 signatures of various church leaders and human rights coordinators in the US. The head of the National Christian Council of Japan and 32 other Protestant groups in the same country have sent a message of solidarity. Similar messages have arrived from foreign parliamentarians, labor organizations, progressive parties and organizations, church people, human and civil rights advocates and many others.

Aside from the six partylist representatives, the regime charged on March 18 eight other leaders of various progressive groups in

Davao City for sedition and rebellion along with Rep. Joel Virador. Virador, who is one of the Batasan 5, hails from Davao City.

Other political opponents of Arroyo are likewise being subjected to relentless harassment, including former Sen. Grogorio Honasan who is accused of leading anti-Arroyo groups within the military and is now the subject of a nationwide manhunt.

Several PNP and AFP officers have been relieved from their posts, are undergoing investigation and may be charged in court. The regime has decided to subject to court martial Gen. Danny Lim who it accused of leading an alleged coup attempt on February 24. **AB**

Suppressing the mass media

Journalists who have uncompromisingly reported the truth and criticized the Arroyo regime are continuously threatened and harassed. The regime has filed spurious cases against journalists and subjected them to surveillance, tactics which it has also employed against progressive individuals and groups. Moreover, the regime repeatedly issues policies to give legal justification for harassing the media.

On February 24, the regime ordered the closure of "Ngayon Na Bayan," an award-winning radio program of Kodao Productions. The program is known for its progressive and propeople orientation and its criticism of the Arroyo regime.

Malacañang maintains constant watch and pressure on journalists from *The Daily Tribune*, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism, *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, ABC 5 and ABS-

CBN who have actively reported on the regime's anomalies. The regime has admitted keeping a close watch not only on the reports posted by these journalists but on their movements as

well.

Some of these journalists, like PCIJ executive director Sheila Coronel have already been charged with sedition.

ABS-CBN news director Maria Ressa revealed during the Senate hearing on Proclamation 1017 on March 9 that Gloria Arroyo called her to order a stop to the station's coverage of the February 26 protest by elements of the Philippine Marines in Fort Bonifacio. Malacañang tried to wiggle out of the situation by lamely claiming that it had not given a direct order but was simply forwarding a "request" in the interest of national security.

Senators censured Malacañang in the same hearing for using the National Telecommunications Commission to suppress press freedom. The repressive measures included prior restraint on media reports, various restrictive policies imposed on journalists and the deployment by the NTC of AFP-PNP personnel to watch over media. The NTC may cite any of these restrictive policies to use its power to immediately terminate any media broadcast. **AB**



Rampant summary executions

Fascism is even more virulent outside the national capital. Wanton killings of members and officers of progressive organizations abound and communities accused of supporting the armed revolution are relentlessly militarized.

The military has severely brutalized Central Luzon, which has been dubbed a killing field after the murders of numerous leaders and members of progressive organizations.

On March 20, a military death squad ambushed the Abelon family in Barangay San Pablo, Castillejos, Zambales. Killed on the spot were Agnes Abelon, 30 and her five-year-old son John Elvis. Her hus-

band Amante Abelon suffered several gunshot wounds. Amante is the Anakpawis provincial coordinator in Zambales and the vice chairperson of the Alyansa ng Magbubukid sa Gitnang Luzon.

On March 8, military assassins killed Bayan-Bulacan chair Crisanto Teodoro at the boundary of Plaridel and Malolos, Bulacan. Teodoro was traveling with his wife when he was shot by motorcycle-riding gunmen.

Teodoro is the 25th activist



executed by the military in Bulacan since Gen. Jovito Palparan was assigned to Central Luzon in October 2005. Up to 95 members of progressive organizations in Bulacan have been summarily executed since Arroyo assumed power.

At dawn of March 18, a death squad murdered Tirso Cruz, 33, member of the board of directors of the United Luisita Workers Union (ULWU) and a barangay councilman of Pando, Concepcion, Tarlac. Cruz was also a key witness in the massacre of farmworkers in the hacienda on November 16, 2004. The military had threatened Cruz on numerous occasions for his stand against Hacienda Luisita and frequently accused him of being an NPA member.

Fascist terror reigns over the towns of San Ildefonso and San Rafael in Bulacan, led by no less than 7th ID commander and Gloria Arroyo's chief executioner Gen. Jovito Palparan.

On March 4, the military abducted Rogelio Concepcion, union president of Solidstate Inc., a thread factory in San Ildefonso. He has not been surfaced to date and is feared to have been killed by his abductors. Forty-eight other union members have since been in hiding after their names were included in the military's wanted list.

The military has imposed a 10 p.m. curfew in both towns. All residents are required to carry community tax certificates. Patrolling soldiers point their guns at and investigate persons who are not residents of the area. General Palparan makes his rounds of the communities and calls residents to meetings. Those who fail to attend are immediately suspected as mem-

Moro groups commemorate 38th anniversary of the Jabidah Massacre

Various Moro organizations launched rallies and other activities last March 17 to commemorate the 38th anniversary of the Jabidah massacre. Khadidja, Moro Youth League and Suara Bangsamoro led in the commemoration of the March 18, 1968 massacre where former dictator Ferdinand Marcos ordered the execution of at least 28 Moro men who were being secretly trained in Corregidor island to attack Sabah, Malaysia which was then being claimed by the Philippines. The victims were killed because they refused to continue training after learning about their mission. News about the massacre was revealed by the sole survivor.

The Jabidah Massacre was one of the many issues that ignited the Moro armed struggle in the 1970s.

According to the Moro-Christian People's Alliance (MCPA), the Moro people commemorate the massacre out of admiration and respect for the victims who showed heroism in the face of government deception and betrayal. Khadidja, a Moro women's group said the victims of the Jabidah Massacre are not the only ones who have been denied justice. It cited the continuing discrimination, forced evacuation, massacres and other violations of the Moro people's human rights, especially in relation to the RP-US Balikatan military exercises.

The Commission on Human Rights-Western Mindanao reported last March 14 that military death squads have killed six Moros in Jolo since January for leading protest actions against the Balikatan exercises.

AB

bers of the revolutionary movement.

According to local residents, the latest series of summary executions and the militarization of their towns began soon after a victorious tactical offensive by the NPA on January 29.

In retribution, the military murdered poultry farmer Ricardo Valmocina and two of his farmhands in San Ildefonso on February 1. Two of Valmocina's sons were also abducted by the military and are feared to have been executed. Before he was murdered, the military had accused Valmocina of supporting the NPA. Valmocina's poultry farm lies just a few meters away from a military detachment. The murders have not been investigated and the killers remain unpunished.

Two weeks after the Valmocina massacre, military elements ab-

ducted brothers Reynaldo and Raymond Manalo. They remain missing to this day.

The abduction was followed by the killing of Danilo Fajardo, a barangay tanod. The next day, armed men shot and killed businessman Santiago Francisco in the center of San Ildefonso town.

As a reward for being the regime's leading fascist butcher, Palparan was given the Distinguished Medal Award during the Philippine Army's anniversary celebration on March 20. The Distinguished Medal Award is the highest non-combat award bestowed by the AFP on its soldiers.

On March 19 in Legazpi City, Cris Hugo, 20, a student at Bicol University and regional coordinator of the League of Filipino Students was murdered.

That same day, Davao City

Anakpawis chair Reunil Mortejo was abducted by the military, subjected to grave threats and ordered to stop his activities before being released.

On March 7, Nestor Arinque, chairperson of the Hugpong sa mga Mag-uuma sa Mabini which is affiliated with the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas, was murdered in Barangay Abaca, Mabini, Bohol.

Even international groups could not ignore the number and frequency of the executions of members of progressive organizations. Amnesty International has expressed serious concern over the killings and openly criticized this March the regime's policy of maliciously linking progressive groups to the armed revolution to justify the military's wanton summary executions and rampant violations of human rights. AB

The Oust Arroyo struggle continues



The broad mass movement to oust Arroyo persists despite the regime's fascist maneuvers and intensifying attacks against democratic political forces. The movement continues to expand as it asserts its rights to expression and protest and comes up with new ways of demanding the regime's ouster.

Various sectors and organizations held protest actions in schools, offices and streets despite Arroyo's continuing threats of arrest and violent dispersal.

About 15,000 marched along Ayala Avenue in Makati on March 8 to celebrate International Women's Day. Journalists held a vigil at the office of the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines on March 14. Hundreds of students and teachers at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City staged a walkout March 17 to express their



outrage against the Arroyo regime. Students and teachers at the university keep on with various forms of protest daily to popularize the call for the regime's ouster.

The Black and White Movement holds a series of "Black Friday Protests" every Friday afternoon from 6:00-6:30 pm. The protesters wear black shirts and other symbols of dissent against the Arroyo regime and stage brief mass actions in crowded places.

The Liberal Party led by Senate President Franklin Drilon and Sen. Francis Pangilinan held a general assembly March 17 and dropped from the rolls Lito Atienza, Mike Defensor and other pro-Arroyo members who were responsible for a spurious party assembly held earlier.

The Senate continues to hold investigative hearings against fascist laws, corruption and electoral fraud committed by Arroyo. It has denounced the regime's excesses during its imposition of PP 1017.

Lawyers and the political opposition continue to question before the Supreme Court the legality of PP 1017 and other repressive Arroyo decrees. Malacañang recently dismissed from office Solicitor General Alfredo Benipayo for his failure to defend PP 1017's legality and his open admission that the proclamation had numerous weaknesses and flaws. Benipayo said that despite the absence of provisions under PP 1017 that would authorize arrests, raids, searches and seizures, it was nonetheless invoked alongside General Orders No. 5 and 6 in many cases where the people's rights and freedoms were abused and violated. **AB**

NPA seizes 23 firearms

The New People's Army (NPA) conducted four raids in various municipalities this March, seizing 23 firearms and killing or wounding 24 enemy forces.

Misamis Occidental. NPA Red fighters seized five M16s in a raid on a police station in Sapang Dalaga town at about 5 p.m. of March 20.

Negros. Guerrillas of the Boy Gatmaitan Command (NPA-Negros) carted away nine firearms in a raid on the detachment of the PNP 1st Provincial Mobile Group in Sitio Malasibog, Barangay Binubohan, Escalante City in Negros Occidental on March 19. The surprised government troops were not able to fight back since the NPA timed its attack while the two policemen and eight CAFGU elements were having breakfast at around 6 a.m.

Among the nine firearms seized by the NPA were an M60 machine gun, two M16s, two M14s, three Garands and a cal .45 pistol.

Zambales. NPA Red fighters successfully raided the police station in Botolan, Zambales on March 18 without firing a single shot.

Three Red fighters masqueraded as civilians reporting a crime to facilitate their entry into the station. While the policemen were hearing their complaint, three other guerrillas arrived, masquerading as investigators of the National Bureau of Investigation, followed by 12 other guerrillas also in NBI attire. The policemen were taken by surprise when the NPA started disarming them. The entire operation took only five minutes.

The guerrillas swiftly withdrew, taking off with three M16s, two 9 mm pistols, ammunition and the Botolan PNP's base radio.

As a consequence, PNP Dir. Gen. Arturo Lomibao dismissed the Zambales PNP provincial director and the Botolan police chief.

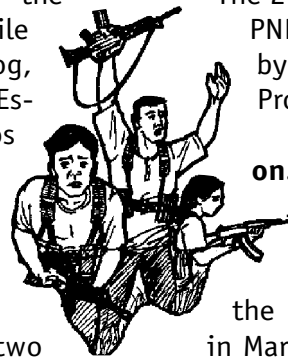
The 24 members of the Botolan PNP were likewise replaced by elements from the PNP Provincial Mobile Group.

Ilocos-Cordillera Region. The enemy suffered at least 14 casualties in three armed actions launched by the NPA in the Ilocos-Cordillera Region in March.

In Kalinga, an NPA unit successfully ambushed 21st IB troopers in Sitio Balalao, Barangay Mabelong, Lubuagan on March 13. The enemy's commanding officer, 1Lt. Homer Torres was killed.

That same day, an NPA team encountered 50th IB elements on a hill in Barangay Mogao along the Abra-Ilocos Sur-Mountain Province tri-boundary. Initial reports state that at least ten soldiers were killed or wounded. The NPA unit overtook the enemy forces in taking a higher position and thus gained the upper hand despite the enemy's numerical superiority.

In Mountain Province, Red fighters under the Leonardo Pacsi Command (LPC) ambushed a unit of the 54th IB in Sitio Pegew, Tetep-an Sur, Sagada on March 10, killing three soldiers. The ambush served as punishment for the enemy troops who launched mili-



tary operations on March 3 in the barangays of Mainit in Bontoc, Gutang in Bauko and Bugang in Sagada. The enemy soldiers intercepted and interrogated all the peasants who were passing by, accused them of being NPA supporters and prohibited them from going to their communal pasturelands and farms. The army troopers also confiscated the peasants' packed lunches.

Agusan del Sur. Three soldiers were killed, including a lieutenant, when NPA guerrillas detonated a land mine, hitting a group of soldiers along the boundary of Barangays Don Pedro and Dimasalang in San Luis, Agusan del Sur on March 12. Five other soldiers were wounded.

Southern Mindanao. Three soldiers were killed and nine others wounded in three separate NPA tactical offensives in two guerrilla

fronts in Southern Mindanao on March 9.

In a statement, Merardo Arce Command spokesperson Rigoberto Sanchez said that two soldiers were killed when Red fighters of Front 2 ambushed combined forces of the 28th IB, PNP and CAFGU at around 12 noon in Sitio Darot, Barangay Libodon, Mabini, Compostela Valley. A soldier, a CAFGU element and two policemen were wounded.

At about 5:30 p.m. that same day, two policemen were wounded when a team from the 3rd Pulang Bagani Company ambushed PNP reinforcements along Km. 11, Barangay Cabuoyan, Mabini. The reinforcements were on their way to Sitio Darot.

In Baganga, Davao Oriental, a team from the NPA's Front 15 harassed 67th IB elements who had just finished setting up a

detachment in Sitio Ulin, Barangay Mahan-ob. A soldier was killed and three were wounded, including two sergeants.

The NPA suffered no casualties in these battles.

Meanwhile, the enemy sought vengeance for its humiliating defeat by venting its ire on defenseless civilians. Elements of the 28th IB burned the houses of five civilians—Ben Deola, Junie Granada, Montano Anuda, Gabriel Ogapang and Sumbie Subo, all of Sitio Darot. The soldiers accused them of being NPA supporters and robbed them of their belongings.

Cagayan. NPA Red fighters seized at least four firearms when they raided a PNP detachment in Barangay Baybayog, Alcala on the night of March 9 without firing a single shot. The NPA seized two M16 rifles and two 9 mm pistols, according to spot reports. **AB**

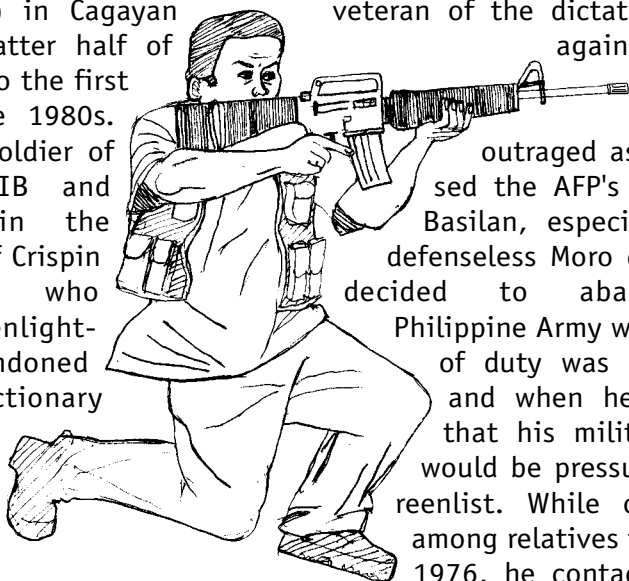
Cecilio Mariano: AFP soldier turned valiant NPA commander

Cecilio "Ka Raffy" Mariano was one of the famed Red commanders of the New People's Army (NPA) in Cagayan from the latter half of the 1970s to the first half of the 1980s. He was a soldier of the 4th IB and followed in the footsteps of Crispin Tagamolila who became enlightened, abandoned the reactionary army and defected to the genuine people's army.

Ka Raffy, a native of Nueva Ecija, was deployed in Basilan

during the height of the Marcos dictatorship's bloody campaign against the Moro people. He was a veteran of the dictatorship's war against the MNLF.

Ka Raffy was outraged as he witnessed the AFP's brutality in Basilan, especially against defenseless Moro civilians. He decided to abandon the Philippine Army when his tour of duty was almost over and when he found out that his military officers would be pressuring him to reenlist. While on vacation among relatives in Isabela in 1976, he contacted a local unit of the NPA and exchanged ideas with them. Not



long after, he decided to join the NPA, bringing along his firearm.

The comrades warmly welcomed him to the fold. A comrade with whom he was closely acquainted supervised his integration into the Red army and trained him in mass work.

Ka Raffy first worked in southern Isabela.

In 1978, he was redeployed to the expansion areas in Cagayan. The first guerrilla squad in the province was formed in 1979. Noting that he had been sufficiently tempered through mass work, comrades decided he was ready for other tasks and entrusted to him the supervision of military trainings. He was also appointed political guide of his squad.

As a military instructor, Ka Raffy contributed greatly in developing a military curriculum and conducting military trainings in



Cagayan. He trained Red fighters there from 1980 onward.

He was able to raise his theoretical knowledge. He diligently assisted in developing the Basic Military Course in Cagayan Valley which was adopted in other parts of the country starting 1980. He contributed immensely in the NPA's advancement of tactical offensives in the region from 1979 to 1982.

Ka Raffy went through a great transformation in his conduct as a fighter and commander of the Red army and in his uninterrupted integration with the masses. In contrast with the anti-masses orientation of the reactionary army where he came from, upholding the people's welfare became his utmost concern. He was among the comrades who unremittingly opposed certain excesses and disciplinary lapses in the people's army brought about by military adventurism. As a result of Ka Raffy's perseverance, such erroneous practices in the revolutionary ranks were rectified.

When a front guerrilla unit for eastern Cagayan was formed in 1980, Ka Raffy was appointed as its commander until 1982. It was able to launch victorious tactical offensives in western Cagayan such as ambushes, disarming operations against CHDF units and other military actions.

Ka Raffy was redeployed to Isabela during the height of the people's struggle against land-grabbing by Hacienda Sta. Isabela and San Antonio in 1982. He became commander of the newly formed NPA guerrilla platoon in Isabela, and tactical offensives continued to advance as before. He died in an NPA ambush in San Mariano in 1984 that wiped out two platoons of Scout Rangers.^{AB}

The US' "long war"

The US Department of Defense (DOD) released to the public in February its 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR) that presents the US' new global military strategy based on perceived threats to its global interest and security and on an assessment of the capabilities of the US armed forces. The DOD comes up with the QDR every four years and submits it to the US Congress for approval. The 2006 QDR sets the US armed forces' directions and program for the next 20 years.

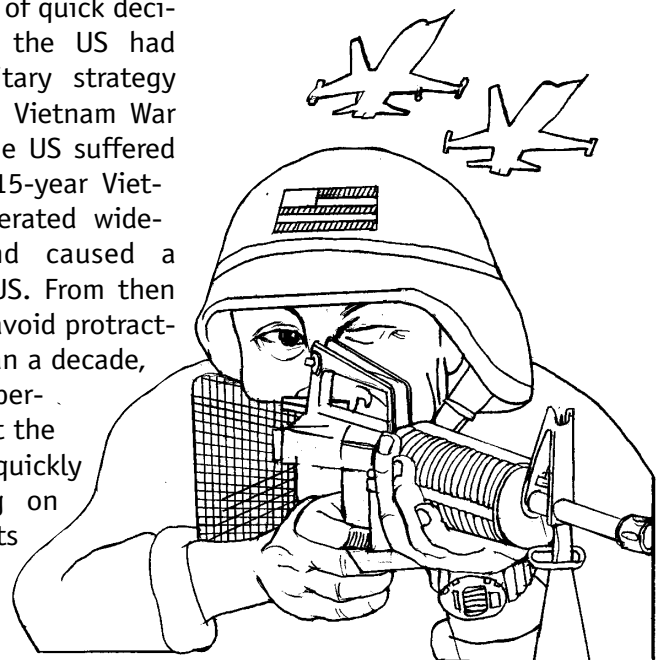
The QDR's preface itself starts with the statement "The United States is a nation engaged in what will be a long war." It said that the US may be waging this war "in many locations simultaneously and for some years to come." It further stated that aside from its current involvement in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, it may likewise be involved in other wars in the future for the next 20 years and beyond.

The "long war" concept replaces the former "war of quick decision" doctrine that the US had adopted as its military strategy since the end of the Vietnam War and the Cold War. The US suffered total defeat in the 15-year Vietnam War which generated widespread protests and caused a severe crisis in the US. From then on, the US strove to avoid protracted wars. For more than a decade, the US as lone super-power made sure that the wars it waged were quickly finished by banking on the superiority of its advanced armaments against militarily weaker nations.

A case in point is the war in Iraq in January-February 1991 that the US won in just six weeks. In this war, the US relied on the vast superiority of its modern weaponry. Likewise, the US quickly won its wars against the small nations of Panama, Haiti and Somalia and relatively quickly in the former Yugoslavia.

The 2001 QDR entertains the possibility of a prolonged US "anti-terrorist war." On the whole, however, the US assumed that it could quickly defeat its enemies through the combined use of preemptive attacks, deployment of forward and expeditionary forces, precision strikes and US superiority in both conventional and high-tech weaponry.

The US used the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001 as pretext for waging wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and to threaten war on what it calls the "Axis of Evil" (North Korea, Iran and Cuba). Riding on the people's





widespread outrage against terrorism and invoking the "anti-terror" slogan, the Bush regime attacked and occupied the weak nations of Afghanistan and Iraq in a bid to control the oil supply and politics in the Middle East and in Central and South Asia.

The US sought quick victories through its "shock and awe" tactics. Its wars on Iraq and Afghanistan, however, have not ended quickly. Although the US was able to swiftly subdue these countries' existing governments, it has not been able to subjugate the people who have been waging resistance on all fronts. In fact, the US continues to suffer mounting casualties and has been bogged down defending itself in these countries. The Bush government has had to confront increasing demands from the American people to end the war and bring US troops home.

At the same time, however, the Bush government has been increasingly worried about its small but powerful enemies, not only in Iraq and Afghanistan, but also in the poor countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America. The US therefore faces the prospect of having to be simultaneously involved in many small wars in many countries for a long time.

To make the American people accept the reality of a prolonged direct occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan by American troops as well as possible US involvement in other wars in various parts of the world in the future, the DOD has begun to propagate the notion of "long wars."

The Bush government is likewise aggressively advancing the "Project for a New American Century" characterized by armed aggression and occupation of independent nations. It is a strategy that has long been

pushed by ultra-Rightist elements in the US as the primary means of establishing US imperialist hegemony worldwide.

The Bush regime and its ultra-Rightist gang has outlined its main objectives for the US armed forces in the latest QDR: to subjugate enemy states and "insurrectionary," "terrorist" and other "non-state forces"; counter nuclear, biological and chemical weapons of rival nations; curtail the strengthening and expanding influence and power of big independent nations such as China, Russia and India; and tighten security within the US in the name of "homeland defense."

Of these four objectives, the QDR gives priority to the first—the suppression of rival states and "non-state forces." As in the 2001 QDR, these objectives are all linked to the "war against terrorism" using as alibi the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

Emphasis on special operations

The latest QDR seeks to depart from the past US strategy of emphasizing the use of conventional weapons such as tanks, aircraft, warships and missiles against enemy states. It now wants the US military to develop non-conventional and indirect means of wiping out "terrorism" and expanding its power as commando groups of the Special Operations Forces (SOF) conduct various overt and more numerous covert operations in various countries. The new strategy also calls for reconnaissance and unmanned surveillance and the expansion of naval forces as the core for these operations, along with simultaneous multiple air strikes.

The Special Operations Forces of various units of the US armed forces (such as the Delta Force and Navy SEALs) will serve as the main force

of the "long war." It is these forces that the US uses in gathering intelligence, launching covert armed actions and training local mercenary armies for its "war against terrorism."

SOF operations increased by almost 81% in the past four years. The new QDR calls for a 33% increase. New SOF commands under the US Marines will also be formed, requiring 2,600 new soldiers and 3,500 more for psychological operations and "civil affairs."

To simultaneously implement all this in as many as a dozen or more countries, the US plans to enlarge its armed forces by 15% and correspondingly increase its military budget.

The US also plans to dismantle military bases erstwhile focused on the former Soviet Union, establish various types of military bases inside its many ally states and concentrate on developing its capability to rapidly deploy its armed forces in any part of the world.

The US also plans to strengthen the gathering of human and signal intelligence. It will intensify espionage activities in both friendly and enemy countries and set up a NATO-based spy center. It will enhance the capacity and scope of its radar equipment and expand its global information grid. The QDR also plans to develop the language skills of US intelligence personnel by training them in Arabic and Chinese.

The QDR called for the acquisition of additional high-tech weapons specialized for the SOF, including several hundred unmanned surveillance aircraft and the formation of an entire naval fleet under the US Air Force SOF. The new armaments are expected to enhance the flexibility and capacity of the US Armed Forces to intervene in any part of



the world.

Even as it develops the capabilities of its special mobile forces, the US also continues to develop military equipment and weapons for the possibility of regular warfare with China and other large rival states under scant US control. The QDR also recommends the doubling of warships in the Pacific Ocean in the next four years to augment troops currently positioned in the area and to serve as deterrent and preparation for any Chinese action. Such plans have greatly pleased giant arms-producing companies in the US. AB

1.5 million rally against new labor policies in France

About 1.5 million youth and workers poured out into the streets in various French cities on March 18 to protest the antiworker and antiyouth First Employment Contract (CPE). At least 300,000 marched in Paris and hundreds of thousands more in ten other cities. Police arrested about 300 protesters in a week.

The CPE is a new labor policy granting capitalists the power to dismiss workers less than 26 years of age within the first two years of their employment. French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin asserts that the CPE is the solution to the country's huge unemployment problem. With at least 23% of its youth jobless, France is among the countries in Europe saddled with a high unemployment rate. AB

Worsening turmoil in China

Ever since China took the road of capitalist restoration in 1976, social ills which had been effectively eliminated through the people's democratic revolution in 1945 and socialist construction in 1956 have come back with a vengeance.

China's toiling masses now face grave socio-economic problems: massive unemployment, slave wages, steep inflation, heavy taxes, bureaucratic corruption, high rates of usury, lack of housing, drug pushing, mendicancy, prostitution of women and youth and female infanticide.

After almost 30 years of capitalist restoration, the gap between the exploiters and exploited has once again widened. While a few amass wealth, the vast majority of the people wallow in poverty and misery.

Social problems continue to worsen throughout China. In 1989, peasant uprisings and strikes rocked more than 80 cities in reaction to capitalist "reforms." By 2003, three million people were

involved in 58,000 various forms of uprisings. In 2004, the government recorded up to 75,000 incidents of public disorder. In 2005, there were up to 87,000 mass uprisings and protests.

Most of the mass actions were in protest of government corruption and illegal land confiscation. Premier Wen Jiabao himself admitted that the land problem is the focal issue now facing the Chinese people and is stoking widespread uprisings in the countryside. Spontaneous uprisings continue to erupt despite intense and bloody suppression by the Chinese government.

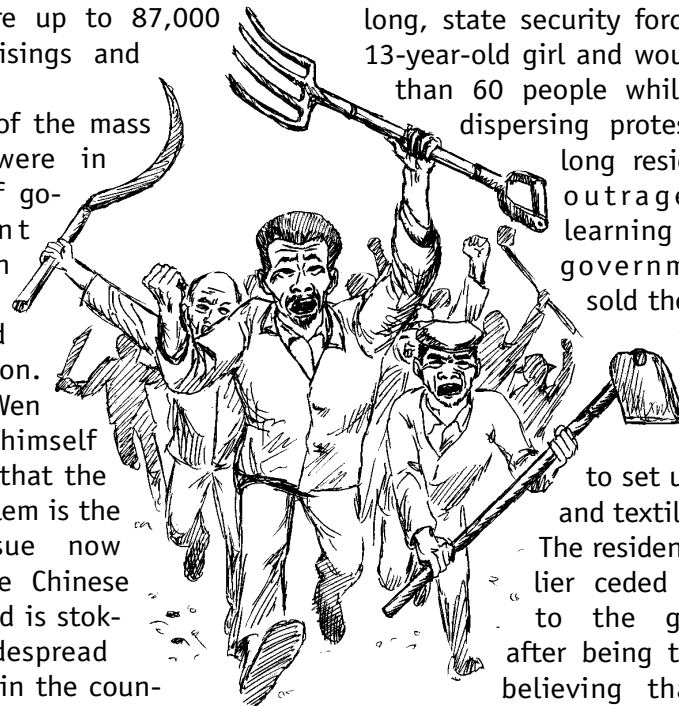
The worst case of suppression occurred in December 2005 in south

China when police massacred at least 20 people. More than 50 other villagers were reported missing after the massacre.

In January, in the southern Chinese industrial center of Panlong, state security forces killed a 13-year-old girl and wounded more than 60 people while violently dispersing protesters. Panlong residents were outraged upon learning that the government had sold their lands to private companies planning to set up chemical and textile factories.

The residents had earlier ceded their land to the government after being tricked into believing that it was needed for the construction of a superhighway that would connect their area to the city of Zhuhai near Beijing, the national capital.

The peasants are not the only ones in revolt. An increasing num-





ber of workers are in uproar against oppression and have been waging various forms of protests. Even workers in Daqing, formerly hailed as the model for socialist industrialization in China when Comrade Mao Zedong was alive, have risen in revolt.

Daqing was a desert in Heilongjiang province when workers arrived there in 1958. The workers' intense class love for the people and their communist dedication drove them to use their creativity, resourcefulness and efficiency in establishing an oil mine that supplied 67% of China's oil needs. The Daqing workers served as a great inspiration throughout China. Mao Zedong put forth the 1964 slogan thus: "In industry, learn from Daqing!" These achievements were reversed when the ruling party and government turned revisionist. From being owned by workers, PetroChina which owns the Daqing company is now under capitalist ownership. Daqing is now touted as a "model of corporatization" where comprador interests prevail over those of the workers and the people.

PetroChina's comprador managers prospered through grave corruption, bloated salaries, lavish privileges, extravagance and by squandering the company's assets. Operating expenses shot up and the company incurred successive losses which it blamed on the workers. Since 1999, more than 90,000 of Daqing's 300,000 workers have been laid off. A terminated worker retorted, "Those at the top laid us off so that they can avail of their yearly bonus which is equivalent to what we earn in a lifetime."

Health security and other essential benefits for the remaining workers of Daqing were also halted. The company also cancelled subsi-

dies for air-conditioning workers' homes (a necessity in the desert heat) and scrimped on other expenses for ensuring health and welfare in the workplace. For years, the workers appealed for negotiations but the comprador managers and supervisors and government leaders turned a deaf ear.

In 2002, a huge protest action erupted among workers in Daqing and throughout China. About 50,000 Daqing workers joined a three-month strike in northeast China together with 30,000 others from the metal and other industries from the nearby city of Liaoyang. For the first time since the revisionists ruled, a workers' union asserted independence from the capitalist state. The strike also shattered the revisionist policy of forbidding workers in various unions and industries from linking and coordinating with each other during struggles.

The Daqing revolt was replicated in various parts of China. Despite police brutality on protesters and imprisonment of strike leaders, the protests intensified. Workers at the Liaoyang Ferroalloy Factory in 2002 were unfazed. They were supported by 30,000 workers from six other factories in the city. The protests, which lasted six months, denounced corruption by managers and local government officials.

Also in 2002, several thousands of laid off workers from a coal mine as well as cement, iron and petrochemical factories in nearby Fushun city staged a march. Most of them were former workers of the Tiger Platform Coal Mine where 24,000 to 30,000 workers were terminated in exchange for an amount computed from their years of service.

To evade their obligation to provide support for the unemployed

in accordance with an extant socialist policy, the state and the capitalists came up with the absurd label of *xiagang* or "terminated but not officially unemployed" for laid off workers. In the past, factories were obliged to provide a \$30 to \$55 monthly allowance for dismissed workers until they found new employment. Now, the workers are just given a lump sum upon dismissal.

In Fushun, laid off miners who had served the company for 20 years company received a mere \$4,400 (less than P35 per day of service). In China, such an amount would last for only about two years even for the barest necessities.

The workers' militant actions in China's industrial centers manifest the breadth of their defiance of abusive and exploitative capitalists. Among the ranks of the proletariat, it is the workers in formerly state-owned companies who are the most enraged because they are the primary targets of layoffs due to bankruptcies, shutdowns and privatization of industries. They are direct witnesses to how the bourgeoisie have taken over publicly owned factories. Workers' outrage is also spreading in the private sector, especially now that private workers' labor power has become a capitalist commodity and their employment easily terminated at any time.

Peasant and workers' revolts in China remain sporadic and spontaneous because of the absence of a genuine communist party that would uphold the interests of the proletariat and other toiling masses and lead them in their struggles. Time will come when the working class in China will rise anew, organize itself, overthrow the bourgeoisie that usurped the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party and the socialist state, and regain the victories of the toiling masses. **AB**